2. A supplemental dose of assistance to those families assisted during the VI Plan who have not been able to cross the poverty line, for no fault of their own.

3. The approach of uniformity, for physical and financial achievements, has been changed to one of selectivity.

4. The identification of beneficiaries must be ratified by the village assemblies, as per the guidelines.

5. Efforts to improve the linkages through identifying bodies at district levels for this purpose or through the establishment of District Supply & Marketing Centres.

6. A High Level Committee has been appointed to review the existing administrative arrangements for rural development and poverty alleviation programmes.

7. A new system of concurrent evaluation of current and two year old beneficiaries is being introduced.

The State Governments have also been addressed in this regard to look into and remedy the deficiencies pointed out in the report. The implementation is thus being streamlined and procedures being reviewed to obviate these deficiencies.

Loss to Kharif crop due to scanty rains

*276. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to scanty rains the Kharif crop has been badly affected in many States;

(b) whether this has resulted in drought in most of the States;

(c) whether drought situation has been declared in any State; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Except some parts of the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka which have asked for Central Assistance for continued drought due to delayed/inadequate rainfall, no drought condition has been reported by any other State during the current South West monsoon.

(c) and (d) The Memorandum received from these States are being processed.

Ban on import of edible oils

*277. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to impose a ban on the import of edible oils; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Production of wheat and rice in Bihar, Punjab, U.P., West Bengal and Assam

*278. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the total production of wheat, rice and other foodgrains in Punjab, U.P., Bihar, West Bengal and Assam in each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) what has been the per capita production of these grains in these States during the period;

(c) whether it is a fact that per capita production of grains has dropped between 1970-71 to 1980-81 in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal; and

(d) what are the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to increase the per capita production in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) Statements I and II enclosed.

(c) and (d) The per capita production of foodgrains has dropped in Assam and West Bengal while that in Bihar has increased marginally between 1970-71 and 1980-81. The reason for decline in per capita production in Assam and West Bengal is mainly attributed to higher rate of growth in population vis-a-vis relatively lower increase in foodgrains production.

Measures to improve the production and productivity of foodgrains in Eastern states in general and Assam, Bihar and West Bengal in particular, include a Centrally Sponsored Special Rice Production Programme launched in 1984-85 on a pilot basis and proposed to be continued during the Seventh Plan. Under this programme about 1/5th of the blocks in each State are proposed to be covered for providing, at subsidised rates, the various inputs like seeds of suitable location specific high-yielding varieties, fertilizers, micro-nutrients pesticides, farm implements, plant protection equipment, etc.

Other measures being taken to increase production include—

(i) increase in irrigated area and efficient water management;

(ii) increased use of High Yielding Varieties and certified seeds;

(iii) increased application of fertilizers and adequate plant protection measures;

(iv) development of technology suitable for problematic areas;

(v) adoption of appropriate pricing and procurement policies etc.

Statement I

Production of Food grains in selected States

(*Lakh Tonnes*)

Crop/State	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85 (anticipated)
Rice :				
Punjab	37.6	41.5	45.4	50.6
Uttar Pradesh	59.0	56.4	67.0	71.8
Bihar	42.6	39.7	49.8	N.A
West Bengal	58.3	49.5	70.4	N.A
Assam	22.4	39.7	49.8	N.A.

Crop/State	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84 (anticipated)	
Wheat :				
Punjab	85.5	91.6	94.2	101.8
Uttar Pradesh	127.5	152.6	162.6	159.7
Bihar	22.0	24.3	27.5	N.A.
West Bengal	3.9	6.1	8.5	N.A.
Assam	1.2	1.2	1.2	N.A.
Pulses & Coarse Cereals :				
Punjab	10.2	8.4	8.3	8.9
Uttar Pradesh	56.4	55.8	62.6	70.7
Bihar	17.8	18.2	18.9	N.A.
West Bengal	3.3	3.0	3.6	N.A.
Assam	0.7	0.7	0.6	N.A.

N.A. – Not available due to non-receipt of final estimates from the concerned State Governments.

Statement – II

Per Capita *production of Foodgrains* (*Kgs*)

State	1980-81	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85 (Provisional)
Punjab	775	864	819	872
Uttar Pradesh	213	226	244	241
Bihar	115	100	128	N.A.
West Bengal	118	103	158	N.A.
Assam	118	131	124	N.A.

N.A – Not available.

Newsprint allocation to Oriya Dailies

*279. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of newsprint released for the dailies published in Oriya language from Bhubaneshwar during the 1982, 1983 and 1984;

(b) what is the criteria according to which such quantum of newsprint was released to these regional dailies; and

(c) whether the circulation of these dailies has been checked for the period from 1982 to 1984